Rise in exports

105. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's exports have shown a rising trend during the last three months; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The growth rate in exports, which was 16.7 per cent during the first six months i.e., April—September, 1986, stepped up to 17.3 per cent by the close of the nine month period i.e. April—December, 1986, when compared to the corresponding periods of the previous year.

Chinese arms assistance to insurgents in North Eastern States

106. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware the insurgents operating in North Eastern States are getting arms assistance and training from China.

(b) whether it is a fact that the insurgents have been using Burmese territory for transit to China for obtaining weapons and other material help;

(c) whether the Burmese Government has been requested to cooperate in flushing out the insurgents so that the Indian security forces can deal with them effectively; and

(d) the extent to which the Burmese Government has cooperated with the Indian authorities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) We have no confirmed reports about insurgents operating in North Eastern States getting arms assistance and training from China or using Burmese territory for transit to China for obtaining weapons and other material help.

(c) and (d) Government have sought the cooperation of the Burmese Government in matters relating to the movement and activities of insurgent groups operating within Burmese territory. Government are satisfied with the attitude of the Burmese Government.

Murder of a priest and a Pakistan trained terrorist

107. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH:
SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is correct that a priest and a Pakistan trained terrorist who had been "debriefed" have been murdered in Punjab (Hindustan Times dated 1-2-1987); and

(b) if so, Government's response to such grim, new developments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Facts are being ascertained from the Government of Punjab and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of textile mills under the control of NTC

108. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to close down certain textile mills under the control of National Textile Corporation;